

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
Broadcast television has replaced print media as the main source of news and current events for our citizens. As such, it has the responsibility to safeguard our democracy; it is the famous "fourth estate" that supports the public interest with accurate information. The citizens rightfully own the public airwaves. For these 2 reasons, broadcast standards need to be set, to ensure that broadcasters meet the public interest.

Now, the networks spend little news time on election issues.

Please consider the proposal of Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein and Michael J. Copps, and define meaningful public interest requirements that include standards for local civic and electoral affairs programming. It's time for the FCC to ensure that broadcasters provide meaningful election coverage that will provide the information citizens need in order to make informed choices on Election Day.

I remember a time when in my locality, local policy forums ("Town Hall") were common and well watched. Now, there is almost none of this kind of programming.

Clearly, broadcasters have forgotten their role as the "fourth estate," so the FCC is obligated to remind them.

Democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices. YOU are an agency of the government charged with serving us. Please remember that your role is not to serve the broadcasters.  
Sincerely,

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